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Paying accurately for imaging services in the physician fee schedule

ISSUE: Technological progress in diagnostic imaging over the past several years, and its promise for improving diagnosis, treatments, and health outcomes are impressive. In addition, improvements in technology have made those services available outside the hospital in settings such as imaging centers and doctors' offices—with concomitant improvements in convenience for patients. However, there has been rapid growth in the volume of imaging services for Medicare beneficiaries; and there are concerns about payment accuracy and inappropriate use of imaging services.

KEY POINTS: In this session, we will examine options for improving the accuracy of physician fee schedule payments for diagnostic imaging services.

ACTION: We seek Commissioners' feedback on these options and guidance for further work.

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